

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /110 R

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P 260247Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT LTUIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279655

C O R R E C T E D COPY (OMISSION OF REFS)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS MP

SUBJECT: LOS: US FISHING ZONE LEGISLATION

REFS: A. PORT LOUIS 0845 B. PORT LOUIS 0876

1. H.R. 200, A BILL TO UNILATERALLY EXTEND U.S. FISHERIES
JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES, HAS PASSED THE HOUSE. A
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SIMILAR BILL, S.961,IS NOW PENDING BEFORE THE SENATE

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, AFTER BEING FAVORABLY REPORTED BY THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE AND UNFAVORABLY BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. WE EXPECT A VOTE IN THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER AND A VOTE IN THE SENATE BEFORE CONGRESS RECESSES IN MID-DECEMBER.

2. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 2A OF REFTTEL A, BOTH BILLS ARE INTENDED TO EXTEND U.S. JURISDICTION QUOTE PENDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT UNQUOTE. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 2B, BOTH BILLS RAISE POSSIBLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN UNILATERAL LEGISLATION AND EXISTING LOS CONVENTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE CONVENTION ON HIGH SEAS AND THE CONVENTION ON FISHING AND CONSERVATION OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE HIGH SEAS. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 2C, THERE ARE PROVISIONS FOR U.S. LICENSING OF FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN THE 200-MILE LIMIT. FOREIGNERS WOULD BE LICENSED TO FISH FOR THE SURPLUS STOCKS THAT U.S. FISHERMEN COULD NOT TAKE, CONSISTENT WITH CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS. COPIES OF BOTH S.961 AND H.R. 200 ARE BEING POUCHED.

3. INDICATION IN REFTTEL B WAS THAT MAURITIUS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION. POSITION OF U.S. IS TO STRONGLY OPPOSE UNILATERAL FISHERIES EXTENSIONS AND WE HAVE ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO MAKE THESE VIEWS KNOWN, DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

4. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD APPEAR TO ENCOURAGE OR ASSIST MAURITIUS IN THE DRAFTING OF ANY UNILATERAL CLAIMS TO HIGH SEAS AREAS. INSTEAD, EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY U.S. POSITION OF RELIANCE ON BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE FISHERIES PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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